

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4069

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5345

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MMOL, LE

SUBJECT: ARMS EXPORT APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVATE CONSIGNEES IN
LEBANON

REF: STATE 081964, DTG 102047ZAPR75

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENT ON POSSIBLE END USE OF
COLT .45 CALIBER AUTO PISTOLS, MAGAZINES AND AMMUNITION
INTENDED FOR EXPORT TO SARKIS SOGHANALIAN, UNITED
INDUSTRIES, BEIRUT.

2. SOGHANALIAN IS COLT INDUSTRIES AGENT IN LEBANON.
AS SUCH, HE IS INVOLVED IN ALL COLT ARMS SALES TO GOL
(INCLUDES ARMY AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES) AND IN
RETAIL SALES TO PRIVATE CITIZENS. HE HAS EASY AND
FREQUENT ACCESS TO G-2 LEB ARMY AND LEADERS OF KATAEB
AND NATIONAL LIBERAL POLITICAL PARTIES, TWO LEADING
CHRISTIAN PARTIES IN LEBANON. BOTH OF THESE PARTIES
HAVE ACTIVE MILITIA.

3. WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT NONE OF SUBJECT HAND
GUNS WILL GO TO PALESTINIANS. CONVERSELY, GIVEN
SOGHANALIAN'S CONTACTS, WE ARE EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT
SOME, IF NOT ALL, OF HAND GUNS WILL END UP IN LEBANESE
CHRISTIAN HANDS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING BASICALLY DEFEN-
SIVE NATURE OF HAND GUNS, WE DO NOT FIND THIS PARTICULAR-
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LY ALARMING AND DOUBT THAT THEIR IMPORTATION WOULD

FUEL CONFSSIONAL ARMS RACE IN LEBANON.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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